What is claimed is:

1. A method for the treatment of established joint inflammation in a human or non-human patient in need thereof comprising administering to the patient an effective anti-inflammatory amount of a C5 blocker.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to ~~substantially~~ inhibit the cell-lysing ability of complement present in a blood-derived fluid of the patient.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the blood-derived fluid is serum.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to ~~substantially~~ reduce the level of soluble C5b-9 present in a blood-derived fluid of the patient after activation of complement in that fluid.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the blood-derived fluid is serum.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to ~~substantially~~ reduce the level of C5a present in a blood-derived fluid of the patient after activation of complement in that fluid.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the blood-derived fluid is serum.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to reduce the cell-lysing

ability of complement present in the synovial fluid of an inflamed joint of the patient by at least 10%.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to reduce the level of soluble C5b-9 present in the synovial fluid of an inflamed joint of the patient by at least 10%.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker is administered in an amount ~~sufficient~~ effective to reduce the level of C5a present in the synovial fluid of an inflamed joint of the patient by at least 10%.

11. The method of Claim 1 comprising the further step, after the administration of the C5 blocker, of determining the C5a level and/or the C5b level in the synovial fluid of an inflamed joint of the patient so as to monitor the course of the patient's response to the administration of the C5 blocker.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the C5a level is determined by an immunoassay or a chemotaxis assay.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the C5b level is determined by measuring the level of soluble C5b-9 in the synovial fluid or by measuring the cell-lysing ability of complement present in the synovial fluid.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein the C5 blocker does not ~~substantially~~ interfere with the cleavage of complement component C3 in the patient's serum into C3a and C3b.

15. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein:

(a) said pharmaceutical agent comprises a C5 blocker which provides the agent with anti-inflammatory properties; and

(b) said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of joint inflammation.

16. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein:

(a) said pharmaceutical agent comprises a C5 blocker which provides the agent with anti-inflammatory properties; and

(b) said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said pharmaceutical agent is for use in the treatment of arthritis.